

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01121 030928Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 CU-02 /071 W
-----030938Z 051054 /17

R 030845Z JUN 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7923
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
A/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1121

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: PRC PAPER NOTES DEATH OF PURGED FORMER OFFICIAL

1. PEKING'S KUANGMING DAILY MAY 31 CARRIED BRIEF BACK-PAGE OBITUARY OF CHANG NAI-CHIH, WHO DIED ON MAY 13. KUANGMING STATED THAT CHANG HAD DONE GOOD WORK FOR THE PEOPLE BEFORE 1957, BUT IN THAT YEAR WAS DETERMINED TO BE RIGHTIST DUE TO HIS ANTI-PARTY AND ANTI-SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES. THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN 1975 CHANG ACKNOWLEDGED HIS MISTAKES AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT CORRECTION.

2. CHANG WAS A SHANGHAI FINANCIER WHO BECAME A THIRD-FORCE ACTIVIST IN LATE 1940'S. HE BECAME BOTH MEMBER OF FIRST NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND MINISTER OF FOOD IN 1954, BUT WAS PURGED DURING HONGKONGI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN WHICH FOLLOWED HUNDRED FLOWERS CAMPAIGN
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IN 1957. WE UNDERSTAND HE REFUSED TO SAY HE HAD BEEN ANTI-PARTY. OBITUARY NOTICE IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FIRST SIGN OF HIS REHABILITATION SINCE THAT TIME.

3. COMMENT: CHANG'S REHABILITATION AT THIS TIME RAISES QUESTION OF IMPLICATIONS FOR MORE IMPORTANT AND STILL LIVING PURGE VICTIMS. FORMER

CULTURAL CZAR CHOU YANG, FOR INSTANCE, IS RUMORED
IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLES TO BE ON VERGE OF REHABILITATION.
CHANG'S OWN PURGE WAS LONG BEFORE HEYDAY OF GANG OF
FOUR. IF THE VERDICT ON CHANG CAN BE REVERSED, IT
MIGHT BE ARGUED, SO CAN THOSE ON OFFICIALS WHO FELL
FROM POWER DURING MORE DOUBTFUL PERIOD AFTER 1966
WHEN GANG WAS RIDING HIGH.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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